

## ***PIER-EA GCC Grant Program***

### ***Summary of Questions and Answers: July 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> workshops***

#### **General Questions**

Who will conduct the initial screening of the proposals?

*Initial screening will be done by the CIEE Grant Program Administration and the CEC Grant Program Manager.*

How many awards do you expect to make under each research topic?

*There will be one award per topic.*

Where is the “California Climate Change Center”?

*It is a “virtual” research center, with components at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (U. C. San Diego), focusing on climate analysis and modeling, and at U. C. Berkeley, focusing on economic and policy analysis. The Grant Program, under which this solicitation is being released, forms the third branch of this Center.*

How can applicants avoid duplicating research?

*Conduct a review of the recent technical literature. We expect applicants to be aware of key, published research.*

The technical review process seems to have two similar parts, what is the difference between the Technical Evaluation and the Technical Review Committee?

*The Technical Evaluation consists of individuals that are experts in their respective scientific fields. For the Technical Evaluation, there will be a minimum of at least 3 reviewers for each proposal. These are confidential reviews, and the reviewers do not discuss the merits of the proposal with each other. The Technical Review Committee will be formed by a group of individuals with broad experience in technical and policy issues related to climate change and familiarity with the overall goals and objectives of the PIER-EA climate change program. They work as a committee in evaluating the proposals and discuss the overall merits of the proposals together before they individually score the proposals.*

Is there a specific start date that should be listed in the proposals?

*There is not a requirement for a specific start date. If all goes according to schedule, we hope to notify awardees by mid-February 2004. Hopefully, work can begin in mid-March 2004.*

What qualifies as “cost-sharing”?

*Monetary funds are the most recognizable, but in-kind services, such as laboratory use or staff resources, will be recognized as well. Please refer to the Grant Application Manual (Forms C-1 and C-2 Instructions Proposed Budget and Narrative, Item L. Matching Funds and/or Shared Costs (Optional)).*

Can PIER funds be used to support dissertation research?

*Yes, PIER funds can support students conducting dissertation research. The budget would reflect the funds going to student researchers.*

Can tuition payments be included in a proposal budget (for students working on a project, in the case of a university-based proposal)?

*Yes, they can be included.*

Can individuals associated with a university apply as individuals, that is, without university sanction?

*No – in this case proposals must pass through university approval processes.*

Is there any restriction on the use of research results for dissertation work?

*The restrictions on the use of research results for dissertation work are the same as those for the Principal Investigator conducting research. See the Grant Application Manual (Exhibit A-4, Section 11 (Intellectual Property)) for a discussion of this issue.*

Does the Scripps Institution of Oceanography conduct regional climate modeling?

*Yes. As indicated in Research Topic 1, PIER-EA is funding some regional modeling work at Scripps.*

What is the relation of funded work/researchers to the PIER-supported work/researchers at Scripps and U.C. Berkeley (UCB)?

*First, the topics in this solicitation are complementary to those supported by PIER at Scripps and UCB. Second, while active collaboration is not expected, it is anticipated that funded researchers will participate in occasional meetings with the Scripps and UCB researchers as indicated in the Grant Application Manual.*

Will preference for funding be given to people or organizations within California?

*No.*

Are businesses (small or large) competing equally with other (academic) applicants?

*Yes. We do not give any preferences to one type of organization over another. All are treated equally.*

Are most submittals from universities or national laboratories?

*In a previous solicitation for a different PIER-EA grant program, there were more submittals from universities and national laboratories than other entities. We have not received responses to this solicitation, so it is premature to know the breakdown of proposals by organization.*

Are applicants expected to quantify estimated benefits for proposals in each research topic?

*No. Applicants are not expected to quantify benefits in the proposals; however, quantification of benefits would be helpful and is encouraged.*

What if you do not have the required insurance?

*As noted in the Grant Application Manual (Exhibit A-4 Section 19. Insurance) - if you do not have professional liability insurance coverage, OP/CIEE will waive the requirement for this project only.*

What office at the Department of Energy (DOE) released the request for proposals for projects on carbon sequestration, including sequestration in geological formations? *The DOE Fossil Energy Office, Coal Program.*

Who are the contacts for the California Climate Change Center at Scripps and UC Berkeley?

*Scripps - Dan Cayan: dcayan@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-4507*

*UCB – Michael Hanemann: hanemann@are.berkeley.edu or (510) 642-2670*

### **Research Topic 1**

Is Research Topic 1 solely scientific research?

*Yes.*

A workshop must be organized by those awarded the grant. How should travel reimbursements and honorarium be handled for those attending?

*Funding for travel reimbursements and honorariums should be written into the proposal – included in the budget.*

Is there a specific time frame that the Climate Model simulations should be capable of running?

*Please note that the Protocol does not require any modeling simulations. However, the developers of the Protocol should consider that PIER-EA is interested in the development of climate scenarios for California from the present to the end of this century.*

Would it be possible to have the California Energy Commission or Scripps set up and run a website/server to provide information key to this type of Climate Model?

*The Energy Commission does not intend to provide such a service. Please note that suggesting that a state agency will provide this service without prior agreement will be considered risky. You are free to contact any institution to find out if they would provide such a service and make it part of your proposal. If you are able to get an institution to provide this service at no cost, you may consider this as an in-kind contribution (cost sharing).*

### **Research Topic 2**

Has the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) at Reno agreed to accept data that is collected from the monitoring stations?

*Yes, but the data must be in a format that is acceptable to the WRCC at Reno.*

Must the data be transmitted instantaneously (via radio signal) or can it be stored and then collected? Or – how “near” is “near-real time”? Will a month delay in reporting be acceptable – for example?

*If there is a justification for having delays in reporting the data, (for example: the process of obtaining a Federal Radio License is too complicated or expensive for providing data on a real-time basis) the data may be stored and collected on a monthly basis. However, our preference is for near-real time transmission of data.*

Data analysis is listed as part of the tasks under this topic: how much analysis is required? *A minimal amount is required to perform a quality control check and to find out if the data complies with the general objectives for which the data is being collected.*

Should applicants coordinate with other governmental resource agencies when determining monitoring sites?

*Yes, whenever possible. However, as noted in the write-up for this research topic, the final selection of sites will be done in collaboration with Scripps and other agencies unless the applicant is only willing to install the instruments at specific sites. As indicated in the Grant Application Manual, “if a proposal is contingent upon the installation of some of these monitors in areas owned or managed by the institution submitting the proposal, the proposal should include an in-depth discussion on how the instrumentation of these sites would achieve the overall goal of this project.”*

Will the 5-year, \$400K amount be awarded in one lump sum or be subject to annual renewal?

*The funding will be spread out, as needed, over a five-year period. Invoices must be submitted for reimbursement of funds, as outlined in the Grant Application Manual (Part 4, Section 4.2.1 (Reimbursement of Invoices)).*

### **Research Topic 3**

Is this focused on policy and economic issues?

*Yes.*

Is the solicitation intended to mean an emphasis on development of theoretical methods or the application of existing methods?

*The emphasis is primarily on the latter. The exception would be development of a theoretical approach in addition to the type of application described in the solicitation. However, purely theoretical research would not qualify for funding.*

How will different specific climate change topic areas described in the presentation be weighed against each other?

*All climate change topic areas are treated equally. Proposals will be evaluated on technical merit and conformity to criteria described in the solicitation.*

In what context should potential scenarios be analyzed, and from “what set” of stakeholders?

*The decision analysis can be made from a variety of different perspectives and be useful (for example – government, industry, or economic perspectives). Because this project is designed to inform governmental policy makers, all analyses should have a governmental policy relevant focus.*

#### **Research Topic 4**

Can a field study outside of California be applied to this research topic?

*Yes; however, there must be a strong justification as to why and how the field studies outside California are of relevance to the state. Since this is a California specific program, there is a preference for field studies performed in California.*

What modeling horizon should the model be able to handle?

*The model should be able to handle multiple time scales including simulations from the present to the end of this century.*

Should the model focus only on natural systems or should it include human influenced systems such as agricultural lands?

*The focus should only be on natural systems.*

Should the model address terrestrial ecosystems only, or should lakes and coastal marine areas be included?

*The model should focus on terrestrial ecosystems. It should be able to apply to all types of terrestrial ecosystems in California at local, regional, and statewide scales.*